Dr. Sherry Overholt
General & Artistic Director & Voice Teacher

Jennifer Grimaldi Toohey
Artistic Coordinator & Voice Teacher

Focus on the Process

QSVI

2024

Welcome to the 16th season of Queens Summer Vocal Institute!

The QSVI experience provides each young artist with a strong foundation of essential tools to excel in the competitive world of opera and vocal performance. Led by acclaimed regional and international professionals, this intensive summer program is sure to train, motivate and inspire each young singer!

Queens Summer Vocal Institute Faculty & Staff

Dr. Sherry Overholt
General & Artistic Director & Voice Teacher

Jennifer Grimaldi Toohey
Artistic Coordinator & Voice Teacher

Alexander Paul Sheerin
Stage Director

Ron Land
Pianist/Vocal Coach

Elaine Smith Purcell
Pianist/Vocal Coach/Chorus Master

Violetta Zabbi
Pianist & Music Director

Kelly Horsted
Pianist & Music Director

Naseer Ashraf
Pianist & Music Director

Mary Pinto
Pianist/Vocal Coach

Louis Burkot
Conductor

Nicholas Kaponyas
Pianist & Music Diector

Cris Frisco
Pianist/Vocal Coach

Dr. Jen Stephenson
Stage Director

Abril Valbuena
Assistant Stage Director

Samara Joy
Guest Artist

Helena Brown
Guest Artist

Beth Roberts
Voice Teacher

Korliss Uecker
Voice Teacher

Christine Moore Vassallo
Voice Teacher

Mary Nessinger
Voice Teacher

Tammy Hensrud
Voice Teacher

Jennifer Barsamian
Voice Teacher

Lyubov Petrova
Voice Teacher

Dr. Sean Moonsammy
Voice Specializing Speech/ Language Pathologist

Peter Randsman
Artist Manager

Ken Benson
Artist Manager

Justin Werner
Artist Manager

Abhay Saha
Pianist

Jason Handy
Pianist

Eric Juneau
Pianist

Michael Ehrman
Guest Adjudicator/Stage Director

Katrina Fasulo
Festival Manager

Jeffrey Langer
Scheduler and Coordinator

Zian Taylor
Admin Intern

Amy Guarino
Videographer/Lecturer

Alexandra Cohen
Parking/Public Safety

Rebecca Millevoi
Stage Crew

Lily Negroponte
Stage Crew

Terrie Alfieri
Photography

Dorian Block
Marketing Consultant

Chloe Dickens
Violin I

Sonia Susi
Violin II

Teddy Froeilich
Viola

Richard Jiminez
Cello

Jeffrey Langer
Oboe

and additional thanks to:
Michael Lipsey
Thomas Lee
Alexandra Cohen
Aaron Copland School of Music Staff

Queens Summer Vocal Institute presents

Opera Division Showcase

Friday, August 2, 2024 • 7PM
LeFrak Concert Hall • Aaron Copland School of Music
Queens College • Flushing, NY

Cris Frisco, Pianist

Joy DelGiorno
"Dich, teure Halle"
Tannhaüser by Richard Wagner

Elizabeth Neumeyer
"Must the winter come so soon?"
Vanessa by Samuel Barber

Aedri Stafford
"Una donna a quindici anni"
Così fan Tutte by W. A. Mozart

Emily Perry
"Ach, ich fühl's"
Die Zauberflöte by W. A. Mozart

Joshua Myers
"Lonely House"
Street Scene by Kurt Weill

Kirsten Tierney
"Vedrai, carino"
Don Giovanni by W. A. Mozart

Alyssa Mener
"O wär ich schon"
Fidelio by Ludwig van Beethoven

Morghan Pastrana
"Il faut partir"
La fille du régiment by Gaetano Donizetti

Zhiqi Cynthia Dai
"It's my wedding"
The Enchanted Pig by Jonathan Dove

Haruka Kondo
"Batti, batti"
Don Giovanni by W. A. Mozart

Theodore Bazin
"Bella siccome un angelo"
Don Pasquale by Gaetano Donizetti

Maya Mesh
"Porgi, amor"
Le nozze di Figaro by W. A. Mozart

Juney Li
"Be Kind and Courteous"
A Midsummer Night's Dream by Benjamin Britten

Kate Bishop
"Acerba voluttà"
Adriana Lecouvreur by Francesco Cilea

Matteo Adams
"Addio, fiorito asil"
Madama Butterfly by Giacomo Puccini

- Pause -

Daphne Buan
"Tornami a vagheggiar"
Alcina by George Frideric Händel

Lucie Freeman
"Allez, laissez-moi seul"
Cendrillon by Jules Massenet

Sarah Pajonas
"Que fais-tu, blanche tourtetelle"
Romeo et Juliette by Charles Gounod

Tiana White
Embroidery Aria
Peter Grimes by Benjamin Britten

Molly Nemirow
"Il segreto per esser felici"
Lucrezia Borgia by Gaetano Donizetti

Peter J. Osterman
Bob's Aria
The Old Maid and the Thief by Gian Carlo Menotti

Zhe Nancy Xiong
Ice Cube Aria
If I Were You by Jake Heggie

Woojin Dong
"Ecco, ridente in cielo"
Il barbiere di Siviglia by Gioachino Rossini

Cassidy Cheong
"Adieu, notre petite table"
Manon by Jules Massenet

Jinping Li
Mariettas Lied
Die tote Stadt by Erich Wolfgang Korngold

Quinlan Sellars
"Vecchia zimarra, senti"
La bohéme by Giacomo Puccini

Ren Wemhoener
Vera's Aria
A Month in the Country by Lee Hoiby

Katherine Clifford
"Una voce poco fa"
Il barbiere di Siviglia by Gioachino Rossini

Queens Summer Vocal Institute 2024
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Queens Summer Vocal Institute Opera Division presents

A Night of Art Song

Saturday, August 3, 2024 • 7PM
LeFrak Concert Hall • Aaron Copland School of Music
Queens College • Flushing, NY

Cris Frisco, Pianist

Rashida Ashley
"Chanson d'amour"
by Gabriel Fauré

Julia Ching
"Soupir"
by Henri Duparc

Dylan Turicek
"Chanson triste"
by Henri Duparc

Matthew Davidson
"Nina"
attr. Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

Diana Vacca
"Amorosi miei giorni"
by Stefano Donaudy

Alexander Cunningham
"Marechiare"
by Francesco Paolo Tosti

Yanitza Lee
"Serenata gitana"
by Miguel Sandoval

Jayde Molfetto
"Will There Really Be a Morning?"
by Richard Hundley

Michelle Menezes
"The Lass from the Low Countree"
by John Jacob Niles

Bethany Wright
"The Lake Isle of Inisfree"
by Ben Moore

Mica Woodburn
"Love's Philosophy"
by Roger Quilter

Sophia Mura
"Down by the Salley Gardens"
by Rebecca Clarke

Narissa Nagee
"Solveig's Song"
by Edvard Grieg

Emma Mellone
"An die Nachtigall"
by Franz Schubert

Maya Villanueva
"Die Lotosblume"
by Robert Schumann

Jeanete A. González
"Vergebliches Ständchen"
by Johannes Brahms

Queens Summer Vocal Institute 2024
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QSVI PRESENTS

Operatic Scenes

DIRECTED BY ABRIL VALBUENA
FEATURING PIANISTS VIOLETTA ZABBI, MARY PINTO, NICHOLAS KAPONYAS & ELAINE SMITH PURCELL

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DR. SHERRY OVERHOLT
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 7 @ 7:30PM
ROOM 264
AARON COPLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC
QUEENS COLLEGE
FLUSHING, NY

Queens Summer Vocal Institute presents

Operatic Scenes

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 • 7:30PM
Room 264 • Aaron Copland School of Music
Queens College • Flushing, NY

***Die Zauberflöte*: "Zu Hilfe!"**
Music Director • Nicholas Kaponyas
Tamino • **Alexander Cunningham**
First Lady • **Yanitza Lee**
Second Lady • **Bethany Wright**
Third Lady • **Michelle Menezes**

***The Turn of the Screw*: Scene 1**
Music Director • Mary Pinto
Governess • **Cassidy Cheong**
Mrs. Grose • **Elizabeth Neumeyer**
Flora • **Maya Mesh**
Miles • **Emma Mellone**

***Princess Ida*: "Now Wouldn't You Like to Rule the Roast"**
Music Director • Violetta Zabbi
Melissa • **Mica Woodburn**
Lady Blanche • **Diana Vacca**

***L'Incoronazione di Poppea*: Prologue**
Music Director • Elaine Smith Purcell
Fortuna • **Juney Li**
Virtu • **Bethany Wright**
Amor • **Sophia Mura**

***Falstaff*: "Alice! Meg! Nanetta!"**
Music Director • Violetta Zabbi
Alice • **Narissa Nagee**
Nannetta • **Cassidy Cheong**
Meg • **Lucie Freeman**
Quickly • **Julia Ching**

***Die Fledermaus*: "To Part is Such Sweet Sorrow"**
Music Director • Violetta Zabbi
Rosalinda • **Emily Perry**
Adele • **Sophia Mura**
Eisenstein • **Alexander Cunningham**

***The Ballad of Baby Doe*: "What do you intend to do, Augusta?"**
Music Director • Mary Pinto
Augusta • **Elizabeth Neumeyer**
First Friend • **Rebecca Barry**
Second Friend • **Mica Woodburn**
Third Friend • **Daniela Barrera Velasquez**
Fourth Friend • **Julia Ching**

***The Mikado*: "Three Little Maids from School"**
Music Director • Nicholas Kaponyas
Yum-Yum • **Rashida Ashley**
Pitti-Sing • **Rebecca Barry**
Peep-Bo • **Julia Ching**

***Orlando*: "Consolati, o bella"**
Music Director • Nicholas Kaponyas
Angelica • **Juney Li**
Dorinda • **Maya Mesh**
Medoro • **Maya Villanueva**

***Le Nozze di Figaro*: "Aprite, presto, aprite!"**
Music Director • Nicholas Kaponyas
Susanna • **Yanitza Lee**
Cherubino • **Jayde Molfetto**

***Die Zauberflöte*: "Bald Prangt der Morgen zu verkünden"**
Music Director • Mary Pinto
Pamina • **Daphne Buan**
First Spirit • **Emily Pace**
Second Spirit • **Emma Mellone**
Third Spirit • **Sophia Mura**

***The Rape of Lucretia*: Spinning Scene**
Music Director • Mary Pinto
Female Chorus • **Katherine Clifford**
Lucia • **Rashida Ashley**
Bianca • **Michelle Menezes**
Lucretia • **Elizabeth Neumeyer**

***The Pirates of Penzance*: "How Beautifully Blue the Sky"**
Music Director • Violetta Zabbi
Mabel • **Daniela Barerra Velasquez**
Frederic • **Alexander Cunningham**
Kate • **Maya Villanueva**
Edith • **Emma Mellone**
Chorus

Stage Director • Abril Valbuena

Queens Summer Vocal Institute 2024
Dr. Sherry Overholt, Executive & Artistic Director & Voice Teacher
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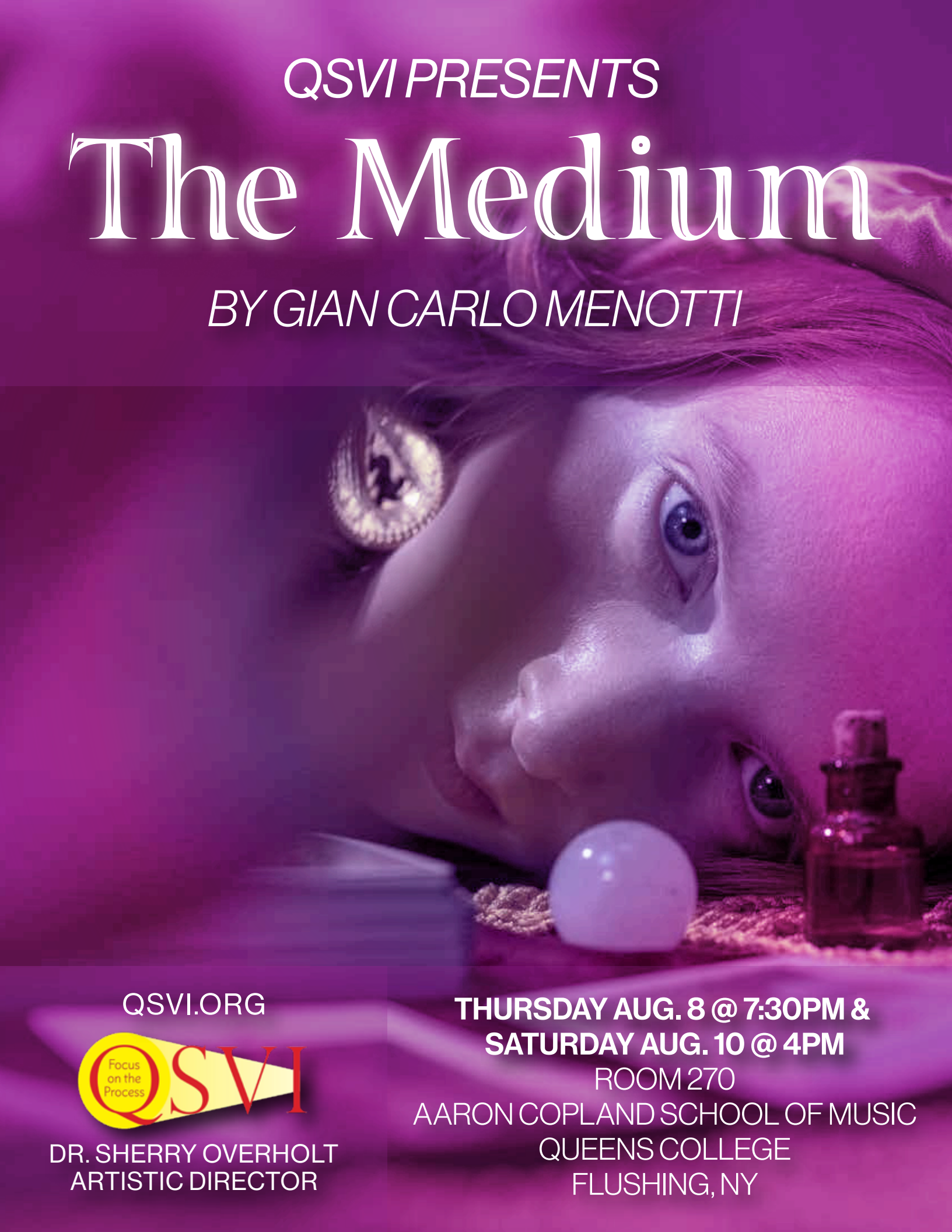
QSVI PRESENTS

The Medium

BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI



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DR. SHERRY OVERHOLT
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

THURSDAY AUG. 8 @ 7:30PM &
SATURDAY AUG. 10 @ 4PM
ROOM 270
AARON COPLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC
QUEENS COLLEGE
FLUSHING, NY

Queens Summer Vocal Institute presents

The Medium

Thursday, August 8, 2024 • 7:30PM
Saturday, August 10, 2024 • 4PM
Room 270 • Aaron Copland School of Music
Queens College • Flushing, NY

Content warning: Deals with themes of verbal, emotional, and physical abuse

Cast

Thursday, August 8

Monica	**Aedri Stafford**
Toby	**Devan McCarthy**
Madame Flora (Baba)	**Nancy Xe Xiong**
Mrs. Gobineau	**Kirsten Tierney**
Mr. Gobineau	**Dylan Turicek**
Mrs. Nolan	**Tiana White**

Saturday, August 10

Monica	**Ren Wemhoemer**
Toby	**Devan McCarthy**
Madame Flora (Baba)	**Kate Bishop**
Mrs. Gobineau	**Haruka Condo**
Mr. Gobineau	**Alexander Cunningham**
Mrs. Nolan	**Lucie Freeman**

Creative

Stage Director	**Dr. Jen Stephenson**
Pianist	**Naseer Ashraf**

Synopsis

Act I: The medium's parlor

Monica, Madame Flora's daughter, and Toby, a mute orphaned boy, begin to prepare the parlor for the evening's seance - one of Madame Flora's long cons - but the two quickly become distracted. Madame Flora, a con-artist and petty criminal, returns home, irate that the room is not ready. Soon the seance guests arrive: Regular patrons Mr. and Mrs. Gobineau, and a newcomer, Mrs. Nolan. The seance begins. Soon, the "spirit" of Mrs. Nolan's recently deceased daughter appears (actually, Monica as part of the scam). Mrs. Nolan becomes agitated and distraught as Monica disappears. Mrs. Nolan is overcome with emotion and cries out for her daughter, but she is restrained by the Gobineaus. When order is restored, Mr. and Mrs. Gobineau "communicate" with their deceased two-year-old son Mickey, who, having never learned to speak, only laughs. Suddenly, Madame Flora breaks character and accuses the guests of having touched her after she feels a phantom hand clutching her throat. After demanding that the guests leave, she calls for Monica and tells her what she felt, eventually blaming Toby. In an effort to calm Baba, Monica sings a lullaby. Baba has almost fallen asleep when she hears a disembodied voice. After ascertaining that no one is in the alley or the house playing a trick on her, Baba reaches her breaking point.

Act II: A few days later

Toby and Monica are playing make-believe, and through their play, their young love becomes evident. Baba returns home and tries to elicit a confession from Toby about the other-worldly happenings. The guests arrive, expecting another seance, but are driven away by Madame Flora, who tries to convince them that she is a fraud and the seances have not been real. Once the guests are gone, Baba forces Toby to leave as well. With everyone gone, and Monica in her room, Baba questions her own sanity, eventually passing out. Once Baba has fallen asleep, Toby sneaks back in the house and tries to get into Monica's room, but finds it locked. While walking through the darkened room, Toby bumps some furniture, waking Baba. Toby quickly hides. Baba tries to see where the noise came from and fetches a revolver. Hysterically she calls out, "Who is it? Speak or I'll Shoot!" Unable to speak, Toby moves behind the screen to show himself. Seeing what she believes to be a spectral movement, Baba screams and fires at the screen. Mortally wounded, Toby collapses, becoming visible. Monica, hearing the gunshots, enters, sees Toby's lifeless body, and runs for help. With her descent into madness complete, Baba asks, in a hoarse whisper, "Was it you?"

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Suor Angelica Gianni Schicchi

BY GIACCOMO PUCCINI

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DR. SHERRY OVERHOLT
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FRIDAY AUG. 9 @ 7PM &
SATURDAY AUG. 10 @ 7PM
LEFRAK CONCERT HALL
AARON COPLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC
QUEENS COLLEGE
FLUSHING, NY

Queens Summer Vocal Institute presents

Suor Angelica

Friday, August 9, 2024 • 7PM
Saturday, August 10, 2024 • 7PM
LeFrak Concert Hall • Aaron Copland School of Music
Queens College • Flushing, NY

Content warning: Deals with child death and suicide

Cast

	Friday | Saturday
Suor Angelica	**Jinping Li | Joy Del Giorno**
La Zia Principessa	**Molly Nemirow | Sarah Pajonas**
Suor Genovieffa	**Katherine Clifford | Morghan Pastrana**
	Both Performances
La Badessa	**Elizabeth Neumyer, Maya Mesh**
La Zelatrice	**Narissa Nagee, Diana Vacca**
La Maestra Della Novizie	**Julia Ching, Michelle Menezes**
Suor Osmina	**Juney Li, Rashida Ashley**
Suor Dolcina	**Mica Woodburn, Jayde Molfetto**
La Suora Infermiera	**Cassidy Cheong**
Una Conversa	**Rebecca Barry, Yanitza Lee**
Le Due Converse	**Bethany Wright, Sophia Mura**
Una Novizia	**Daniela Velasquez, Danka Clara**
Le Cercatrice	**Emma Mellone, Maya Villanueva**
A Child	**Elias Kim**

Creative

Director of Opera Division, Stage Director	**Alex Paul Sheerin**
Conductor	**Louis Burkot**
Music Director/Pianist	**Violetta Zabbi**
Lighting Designer	**Graham Kindred**
Costume Designer	**Dr. Jen Stephenson**
Assistant Directors	**Lily Negroponte & Abril Valbuena**
Production Assistant	**Rebecca Millevoi**

Ensemble

Violin 1	**Chloe Dickens**
Violin 2	**Sonia Susi**
Viola	**Teddy Froelich**
Cello	**Richard Jimenez**

Synopsis

Setting: The outskirts of Florence, Italy, in a wartorn church, 1947.

Angelica, a noblewoman forced into a convent after a secret childbirth, has spent seven years yearning for her son. Surrounded by fellow nuns rebuilding their war-torn church, she finds solace in their camaraderie. This tranquil existence is shattered by the arrival of her aristocratic aunt, demanding Angelica relinquish her inheritance for her younger sister's dowry. Desperate for news of her son, Angelica learns the heartbreaking truth of his death. Overwhelmed by grief, she signs away her inheritance and resolves to reunite with her child in heaven through suicide. However, guilt soon plagues her, but ultimately, she finds peace in a heavenly reunion with her son.

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Queens Summer Vocal Institute presents

Gianni Schicchi

Friday, August 9, 2024 • 7PM
Saturday, August 10, 2024 • 7PM
LeFrak Concert Hall • Aaron Copland School of Music
Queens College • Flushing, NY

Cast

	Friday | Saturday
Gianni Schicchi, the Manager of Buoso's Pizzeria	**Henry Horstmann | Peter Osterman**
Lauretta, his daughter	**Daphne Buan | Emily Perry**
The Donati Family	
Rinuccio, dating Lauretta	**Woojin Dong | Matteo Adams**
Nella	**Jeanete Gonzales | Emily Pace**
La Ciesca	**Alyssa Mener | Cynthia Xiqi Dai**
Zita	**Sarah Pajonas | Tiana White**
Gherardo	**Joshua Meyers | Dylan Turicek**
Gherardino	**Mica Woodburn | Alana Muniz**
Marco	**Quinlan Sellars | Samuel Friedman**
Betto	**Theodore Bazin | Ricky Moreira**
Simone	**Jonathan Mildner**
Spinneloccio	**Matthew Davidson**
Notary	**Devan McCarthy | Austyn Park**
Guccio	**Lucas Mann**
Pino	**Liliana Mann**

Creative

Director of Opera Division, Stage Director	**Alex Paul Sheerin**
Conductor	**Louis Burkot**
Music Director/Pianist	**Kelly Horsted**
Lighting Designer	**Graham Kindred**
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Production Assistant	**Rebecca Millevoi**

Ensemble

Violin 1	**Chloe Dickens**
Violin 2	**Sonia Susi**
Viola	**Teddy Froelich**
Cello	**Richard Jimenez**

Synopsis

Setting: Florence, Italy, 2013.

The Donati family, fresh from New Jersey, rushed to Florence upon hearing of their wealthy uncle Buoso's sudden illness. Eager for their inheritance, they were devastated to discover that Buoso had bequeathed his entire fortune to the church. Desperate, they turned to Rinuccio for help, who suggested enlisting the aid of Gianni Schicchi, Buoso's former business manager. Despite Schicchi's reputation as a con man and the family's disapproval of Rinuccio's courtship of their daughter Lauretta, their dire financial straits compelled them to accept his assistance. Schicchi's audacious plan to impersonate the deceased to rewrite the will offered a glimmer of hope.

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Director's Notes by Alex Paul Sheerin

In staging these operas, I aim to juxtapose starkly contrasting perspectives on the human condition. In Suor Angelica, I explore the themes of destruction and rebirth. The literal reconstruction of a war-torn church serves as a physical manifestation of the spiritual journey undertaken by the opera's protagonist. As the nuns rebuild the sacred space, Angelica's life is simultaneously shattered by societal expectations and personal tragedy. This parallel narrative creates a powerful visual and emotional counterpoint, culminating in Angelica's ultimate spiritual renewal and transcendent reunion with her child. By placing her within this environment of physical and spiritual reclamation, I hope to underscore the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity.

In stark contrast to the spiritual depth of Suor Angelica, Gianni Schicchi plunges us into a world of grotesque materialism and familial dysfunction. The Donati family, originally conceived as a monstrous clan from the 13th century, is reimagined as a contemporary caricature of reality TV excess, drawing inspiration from the over-the-top drama of shows like The Real Housewives of New Jersey and Jersey Shore. These characters embody the toxic allure of wealth and fame, their lives a grotesque spectacle of greed and self-absorption. Against this backdrop, Gianni Schicchi emerges as an unlikely anti-hero, a savvy outsider who challenges the family's avarice and ultimately exposes their moral bankruptcy.

QSVI Gala Concert

FEATURING PIANISTS RON LAND, ELAINE SMITH PURCELL & MORE

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DR. SHERRY OVERHOLT
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

SUNDAY AUGUST 11 @ 1:30PM
LEFRAK CONCERT HALL
AARON COPLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC
QUEENS COLLEGE
FLUSHING, NY

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Summer 2024